

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

who had seen Catherine in his boyhood, and believed himself to have been miraculously delivered from an impediment in his speech by her intercession. In this work he found devoted and indefatigable assistants in Bartolommeo di Domenico and Tommaso Caffarini; but the results were only local and temporary, though several of the houses that were thus founded, for men and women, remain to this day. And, in the meanwhile, at the chapter-general of the Clementine obedience held under Elias at Avignon on the feast of Pentecost, 1386, Raimondo and his fellow-labourers were denounced as *sclerati ac reprobifratres*,³ and threatened with condign punishment under the constitutions of the order.¹ Even the friars of the Roman obedience murmured against the reform; and, in 1395, Raimondo issued an encyclical letter, denying that he was dividing the order and disorganizing convents, by inducing friars to emigrate to houses of the strict observance, and scandalizing people by the spectacle of two Dominican communities in the same town with different rules; those who divide the order are the men who do not observe the constitutions. At the same time, he was worn out by illness, and distracted by the political missions undertaken on behalf of Urban and his successor, in Sicily and elsewhere.² He was of too gentle a nature to adopt severe measures, which, for the rest, could only have resulted in driving the Italian friars into the Clementine obedience. In 1396, he went to Germany, to urge on the work of reform there, and never returned. "Although it would be a joy for me to see thee," he wrote to Giovanni Dominici from Cologne, "nevertheless, it is not really necessary for thee to come personally here to bring me back to Italy; especially because I know that thy presence in the city of Venice is both useful and necessary. But, to speak familiarly with thee, it would avail more for my return if thou, with the superior

¹ *Monumenta O. F. P. Avtorica*, torn. viii. pp. 22-24.

² For Raimondo's work as reformer, cf. *Chronica ordinis praed.*, pp. 26-29 » Fra Tommaso Caffarini, *Historia disciplinae regulans instauratae in coenobiis Venetis O. P.*; J. Luchaire, in *Revue Historique*, torn. 74 (Paris, 1900); *Analecta Bollandiana*, xx. p. 113.